

## **CLAIM OBJECTIONS and CLAIM REJECTIONS:**

**Cancel all claims of record and substitute new claims 19 to 23 as follows:**

### **Claims**

Claim 1 (canceled); rewritten as new claim 15

Claim 2 (canceled); rewritten as new claim 16

Claim 3 (canceled); rewritten as new claim 17

Claim 4 (canceled); rewritten as new claim 19

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (canceled); rewritten as new claim 20

Claim 7 (canceled); rewritten as new claim 21

Claim 8 (canceled); rewritten as new claim 23

Claims 9 - 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (new): A method of reducing the slip of a tire on a vehicle wheel comprising:

- a. providing a metallic wheel with a bead seat, and
- b. coating the bead seat surface of the wheel with a refractory metal or alloy, such that the surface finish of the coated bead seat has a minimum mean surface finish of 450 microinches,

whereby the friction between the tire and said wheel is increased thus reducing slip.

Claim 16 (new): The method of claim 15 wherein said vehicle wheel is selected from the group consisting of automobile wheel, truck wheel, motorcycle wheel, train wheel, aircraft wheel and bicycle wheel.

Claim 17 (new): The method of claim 15 wherein said refractory metal or alloy is selected from the group consisting of iron, cobalt, nickel, chromium, carbon, vanadium, molybdenum, tungsten and niobium.

Claim 18 (new): The method of claim 15 wherein said refractory metal or alloy consists of an iron-chromium-carbon alloy.

Claim 19 (new): The method of claim 15 wherein said coating is applied via a thermal spray technique selected from the group consisting of oxy-fuel thermal spray, oxy-fuel wire spray, plasma spray, high velocity oxy-fuel (HVOF), and twin-wire arc spray.

Claim 20 (new): A method of reducing the slip of a tire on an automotive or truck wheel comprising:

- a. providing a metallic wheel with a bead seat, and
- b. abrasively blasting the bead seat of the wheel thus increasing the surface roughness, and

c. coating the bead seat surface of the wheel with a refractory metal or alloy, such that the surface finish of the coated bead seat has a minimum mean surface finish of 450 microinches, whereby the friction between the tire and said wheel is increased thus reducing slip.

Claim 21 (new): The method of claim 20 wherein said refractory metal or alloy is selected from the group consisting of iron, cobalt, nickel, chromium, carbon, vanadium, molybdenum, tungsten and niobium.

Claim 22 (new): The method of claim 15 wherein said refractory metal or alloy consists of an iron-chromium-carbon alloy.

Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 20 whereby said coating is applied via a thermal spray technique selected from the group consisting of oxy-fuel thermal spray, oxy-fuel wire spray, plasma spray, high velocity oxy-fuel (HVOF), and twin-wire arc spray.